

# Bob Mollette

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Councilman

1705 Franklin Blvd.  
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Phone: 740-353-0099  
email: [mollette@mollette.info](mailto:mollette@mollette.info)  
website: [www.mollette.info](http://www.mollette.info)

Correspondence#: 07-048

---

August 27, 2007

Honorable Council Members  
728 Second Street  
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Re: **Strategic Plan for the City of Portsmouth**

I believe future achievements of our City depend on how well we communicate and work together as a community. A successful community will have an environment that encourages public involvement, and public involvement will occur the better informed our citizens become. I am requesting Council to discuss and take the appropriate steps to develop a strategic plan for our community. The plan must identify our goals and specify the necessary steps to meet those goals, which will provide a vision to prepare the City of Portsmouth for the future.

The City of Portsmouth has limited economic resources that must maintain or upgrade an aging infrastructure, and directly affects the progressively increasing operating expenses for our City. A lack of adequate planning is detrimental to our infrastructure and the services provided to our shareholders. The lack of planning promotes a further burden on the city's essential services and affects the quality of life for those living in our neighborhoods. The City should develop a five (5) year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) to identify strategic investments and the allocation of monies to our neighborhoods, infrastructure, facilities, parks, and playgrounds for future growth. The City should develop a five (5) year Operating Budget to be in control of our own destiny.

After much reflection I prepared correspondence #07-022, dated February 12, 2007. I forwarded these thoughts to Council for deliberation and action. It contained a partial list of relevant city-wide discussion items along with future goals for 2007. I am hopeful Council will seek to understand our problems, encourage communication, and identify a plan for resolution. At this time, I am urging Council to look to the future by preparing a strategic five (5) year plan with goals to involve the community.

To become better organized, Council should consider establishing a segment of the Regular City Council Meeting for reports or updates from the various departments or committees to develop our common goals; areas to consider for regular reporting may include Finance, City Building, Human Relations, Code Enforcement, Health, Police, Parks & Recreation, Greenlawn Cemetery, Southern Ohio Growth Partnership, Public Relations, Streets and Utilities, and *Networking* with other Local, County, and State Governments. Council members need to be well-versed with city business to ensure a superior service is given to our shareholders.

I value our citizens and believe their opinions matter. I value how our City government is viewed by our citizens and our neighbors. Our neighbors within the County must also be included in our goals. The success of our City is directly connected to our ability to develop and implement a successful strategic plan. We must live in the present and prepare for our future. Working as a community with common goals we can accomplish many great tasks.

To move forward our City government must be responsive, deliberate, proactive, and communicate. I am soliciting for ideas in which to gain a vision for the City of Portsmouth and to obtain an achievable goal by organizing our efforts as a community to accomplish these goals. I am requesting Council to begin preparing a strategic plan with achievable goals to encourage a partnership with our public.

Many constituents have raised the question as to which form of City government would be the best for Portsmouth's future, City Manager or Mayor. I realize our City has experienced both in the past and I am requesting Council to consider our options and explore these opportunities with the public.

I am committed to improving the quality of life in the City of Portsmouth by strengthening our neighborhoods, delivering superior services, embracing the diversity of our citizens, and making Portsmouth a desirable and safe City in which to live, work, raise a family, shop, study, play, and grow old. The above statement has no value unless our City has a strategic plan to accomplish these goals.

Contact me should you have any questions or if my assistance is required.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Advocate and Representative on City Council

rwm

Enclosure

cc: Jim Kalb, Mayor  
Trent Williams, Auditor  
David Kuhn, Solicitor  
Department Heads  
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk (Record)

# Bob Mollette

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Councilman

1705 Franklin Blvd.  
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Phone: 740-353-0099  
email: [mollette@mollette.info](mailto:mollette@mollette.info)  
website: [www.mollette.info](http://www.mollette.info)

Correspondence#: 07-022

February 12, 2007

Honorable Council Members  
728 Second Street  
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Re: **Proposed 2007 Goals for consideration by Portsmouth City Council**

While problem solving with constituents and participating in the resolution of deficiencies that affect my 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward neighbors, there are City-wide problems which remain unanswered. In an effort to address our problems, as a community, I have prepared a partial list for consideration by City Council. Obviously, the first step is to acknowledge the problem exists and then work to solve it. I am requesting City Council to consider the following items for deliberation in an effort to seek to understand our problems, encourage communication, and then identify a *plan* for resolution.

On December 3, 2004, I was humbled and honored to become the advocate and representative for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward for the City of Portsmouth. I felt at that time and still feel communication in our City is a large problem. The lack of communication, in our community, creates environments unfavorable to community spirit and good decision making. In fact, it leads to poor decisions by elected officials, which further damage our community spirit and drain our limited resources. Communication is "Key" to our success! We need to inform and encourage public involvement. A large diverse resource of experience and knowledge exists within our community, and their ideas and opinions matter. It is impossible to participate unless you are informed.

I am requesting a paradigm shift by City Council. Over the last two (2) years, I have frequently supplied pertinent information, to Council, for consideration. At this time I am requesting Council to revisit the idea of broadcasting our City Council meetings on our local government access cable television channel; by tape delay and broadcast at predetermined times. I documented and presented to Council my discussion with our franchise (Adelphia) government manager on January 10, 2005. I also requested discussions for this subject be addition to the Work Conference session of February 24, 2005; requested consideration with my letter #06-015 dated February 27, 2006, and supplied Programming & Operational Procedures with my letter #06-020 dated March 13, 2006; May 22, 2006 Council passed the 2006 CIP Budget which included appropriated money (\$1,500) for the purchase of the equipment; and on October 23, 2006 and December 11, 2006, I requested Council to take action to complete the last step and provide the public with comprehensive information at *their* convenience with the goal to encourage participation within our community. There are many challenges facing our community, and I feel positive by involving the public we will meet these challenges.

The City website should be updated regularly with significant information to keep citizens updated!! I created my website, [www.mollette.info](http://www.mollette.info), for City Council *public* information two (2) years ago, after unsuccessful attempts to convince City Council to improve our government website. I am requesting Council to find ways to inform and create an environment that encourages public involvement. Our City government must be transparent. Citizens must hold our government in check. This can only be done if they are well informed.

On March 13, 2006, I submitted letter #06-019 to Council and the Mayor requesting a change in the format of the Conference Sessions. This change was to encourage public involvement prior to discussion, by Council, during the Legislative portion of Regular City Council Meetings. This change would promote participation similar to public hearings of subcommittees of the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate. This action provides a means for the public to have a two-way public communication with Council, as a body, on agenda and discussion items. This change would provide the public the opportunity to testify in favor of or opposition to the proposed legislation. Witnesses would also be testifying, on the proposed legislation, with suggestions or amendments. It provides an avenue for Council to better represent and communicate with the public, and would allow citizens to feel like a part of the solution instead of a victim of the system.

I am optimistic our problems can be solved with clear communication and transparent managing. I am requesting the following items to be discussed, analyzed, and options considered for developing a *plan* to resolve.

- **Networking** - Develop communication and coordination between County and State Representatives.
- **City Building** – Discuss City Building Committees’ Final Report for recommendations and actions.
- **Spartan Stadium** – Appraise investments needed to maintain and improve stadium. Council should consider involving citizens and organizations.
- **Park and Recreation Fund** – Assess investments needed to maintain and improve parks and recreation areas.
- **Greenlawn Cemetery** – Discuss security options to deter future vandalism.
- **Operating Budget** – Establish Finance Committee to oversee budget issues.
- **Downtown Parking** – Discuss utilizing current patrol staffing.
- **Police** – Establish a citizens group to brainstorm solutions for problems associated with crime and drugs and provide support to the Police Department.
- **Traffic** – Many complaints are expressed by 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward residents concerning traffic safety. Discuss utilizing citizens with radar devices and issuing friendly reminders and radar boards.
- **City Ordinances** – Discuss enforcement issues needed to reduce blighted conditions.

As always, I welcome your thoughts on these and any matters discussed here. Contact me should you have any comments or questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Mollette", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Bob Mollette, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Advocate and Representative on City Council

rwm

cc: Jim Kalb, Mayor  
Trent Williams, Auditor  
David Kuhn, Solicitor  
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk (Record)